

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
OMB-01 EB-08 OES-06 TRSE-00 AID-05 ERDE-00 ERDA-05
NRC-05 ACDA-07 /098 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6427
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 4247

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJECT: REACTION TO SUMMIT TALKS

REF: TOKYO 4076

SUMMARY. WHILE EARLY WASHINGTON REPORTS OF SUMMIT
PROCEEDINGS TENDED TO UNDERLINE DIFFERENCES IN POINTS OF VIEW
BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND PRIMIN OON SUCH ISSUES AS
US TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM ROK AND NUCLEAR REPROCESSING,
EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN MORE THOUGHTFUL AND
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POSITIVE. EDITORIALS HAVE STRESSED NECESSITY FOR
JAPAN TO DEVELOP NEW AND IMAGINATIVE POLICIES IN TRADE,
FOREIGN AID AND WORLD ECONOMIC STIMULATION FIELDS.
COMMENTATORS ALSO REACTED RATHER FAVORABLE TO PRESIDENT'S
CALL FOR GREATER POLITICAL ROLE FOR JAPAN, BUT WERE
UNANIMOUS IN RULING OUT POSSIBILITY JAPAN MIGHT PLAY
MILITARY ROLE. MUCH COMMENT, HOWEVER, FOCUSED ON

NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PROBLEM AND TOOK ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT'S ASSERTION THAT REPROCESSING MAY NOT BE MOST ECONOMICAL METHOD OF UTILIZING NUCLEAR FUEL. NLC AND DSP ISSUED STATEMENTS PRAISING OUTCOME OF TALKS WHILE JCP, JSP AND CGP PREDICTABLY CRITICIZED COMMUNIQUE FOR OPENING WAY TO LARGER JAPANESE MILITARY ROLE IN REGION, OUT IMPRESSION IS THAT, WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS OF US TOUGHNESS IN DISCUSSIONS, SUMMIT HAD CONSTRUCTIVE IMPACT IN JAPAN IN ENCOURAGING JAPANESE TO TAKE BROADER, LONGER-TERM VIEW OF ITS PLACE IN WORLD. IT MAY HAVE PROMPTED MANY TO BEGIN TO RETHINK JAPAN'S POLICIES AND HAS BROUGHT HOME FACT THAT JAPAN, WHICH ALREADY PLAYS MAJOR ECONOMIC ROLE, SHOULD DO MORE IN POLITICAL SPHERE. END SUMMARY

1. REACTION TO US-JAPAN SUMMIT HAS CONTINUED TO DOMINATE MEDIA WITH WASHINGTON ACCOUNTS REFLECTING VERY POSITIVE EVALUATIONS EMERGING FROM FUKUDA ENTOURAGE TEMPERED BY CUSTOMERY MEDIA CRITICAL STANCE. REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS HAVE CARRIED UPBEAT COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF PRIMIN'S PARTY WHO DESCRIBED VISIT AS SUCCESSFUL, EVEN "EPOCH-MAKING" IN ESTABLISHING DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN TWO LEADERS AND DEEPENING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. AT SAME TIME, OTHER WASHINGTON REPORTS TEND TO FOCUS ON DIFFERENCES THAT EMERGED. THEY POINT OUT THAT, WHILE FUKUDA ATTEMPTED TO PUT GOOD FACE ON OUTCOME, HE FAILED TO PERSUADE PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT "REDUCTION" INSTEAD OF "WITHDRAWAL" OF US GROUND TROOPS FROM ROK, AND MET UNEXPECTEDLY STIFF US RESISTANCE
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ON NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING, CALLING INTO QUESTION WHETHER SOLUTION FAVORABLE TO JAPAN IS POSSIBLE EVEN WITH FURTHER CONSULTATION. WASHINGTON REPORTS WERE ALSO WARY OF PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR EXPANDED POLITICAL ROLE FOR JAPAN AND FULL OF SPECULATION AS TO WHAT THIS MIGHT ENTAIL. WASHINGTON WRITERS SAW REAFFIRMATION OF US COMMITMENTS TO MAINTAIN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ASIA AND FUNDAMENTALLY FREE TRADE POLICY AS IMPORTANT PLUSES EMERGING FROM VISIT.

2. EDITORIAL REACTION HAS TENDED TO BE POSITIVE, HIGHLIGHTING NEED TO ACCOMMODATE JAPANESE NATIONAL INTERESTS TO BROADER GLOBAL CONCERNS OF PRESIDENT AND WORLD AT LARGE. EDITORIALS POINTED OUT THAT UPCOMING LONDON SUMMIT UNDERSCORED NEED FOR JAPAN TO GET ON WITH BUSINESS OF DEVELOPING NEW AND IMAGINATIVE POLICIES TO ASSURE MORE ORDERLY EXPORTS, TO IMPROVE AID TO LDC'S AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD ECONOMIC RECOVERY, SUGGESTING ON LATTER POINT POSSIBLE DESIRABILITY OF ADOPTING MORE

EXPANSIONARY DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICY AND A FURTHER
UPWARE REVALUATION OF YEN. WHILE SUCH POLICIES WOULD
IMPOSE BURDEN ON JAPAN, EDITORIAL ARGUE, THEY WOULD
HELP RESTORE BALANCE BETWEEN JAPAN AND TRADING PARTNERS,
REDUCE CRICICISM OF JAPAN ABROAD, AND PERMIT ITS
LEADERS TO SPEAK UP MORE FORTHRIGHTLY IN FUTURE
INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. EDITORIALS ALSO WELCOMED
PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO MAINTENANCE OF LIBERAL
TRADING SYSTEM ON EVE OF LONDON SUMMIT AND EXPRESSED
HOPE IT WOULD HELP TO FORESTALL EEC MOVEMENT TOWARD
PROTECTIONISM. ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT BELABOR POINT,
THEY NOTED CONTRADICTION BETWEEN COMMITMENT TO LIBERAL
TRADE AND MOVEMENT TO RESTRICT COLOR TV EXPORTS TO US.

3. EDITORIALS ALSO REACTED FAVORABLY TO PRESIDENT'S
CALL FOR GREATER POLITICAL ROLE FOR JAPAN. WHILE
EXPRESSING UNCERTAINTY OVER WHAT ROLE JAPAN COULD OR
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SHOULD PLAY, COMMENTATORS ARE UNANIMOUS IN RULING OUT
POSSIBILITY THAT JAPAN MIGHT ASSUME US MILITARY BURDENS,

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

AND MOST SURMISED THIS WAS NOT WHAT THE PRESIDENT INTENDED. RATHER, THEY STRESSED POSSIBILITY OF LARGER JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION FOR BRINGING WORLD OUT OF ECONOMIC DOLDRUMS, FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN ASIA, FOR ASSISTANCE TO LDC'S, FOR MORE ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE COMMITMENT ON PENDING INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. US COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ASIA WAS WELCOMED AND SEEN AS HELPING TO ASSUAGE CONCERNS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES OVER UNCERTAIN FUTURE. AGREEMENT TO ENDEAVOR TO EASE TENSIONS ON KOREAN PENINSULA WAS ALSO WELL-RECEIVED, BUT THERE WAS SOME LAMENTING THAT TLAKS
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DID NOT SUGGEST SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH CAUSE OF ASIA TENSIONS MIGHT BE ALLEVIATED. ON THIS SCORE, THEY CALLED FOR JAPAN TO SEEK WASY TO PLAY ROLE IN EASING TENSIONS ON KOREAN PENINSULA. US SUGGESTION OF A SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT WAS WELCOMED, DESPITE DOUBTS ABOUT JAPAN OBTAINING IT.

4. MUCH EDITORIAL COMMENT FOCUSED ON SUMMIT FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR-FUEL REPROCESSING ISSUE. EDITORIALS AGREED ON NEED TO PREVENT NUCLEAR ARMS PROLIFERATION, BUT ARGUED THAT TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL USES AND FOR ARMS MANUFACTURE COULD BE QUITE DIFFERENT. THEY QUESTIONED PRESIDENT'S ASSERTION THAT REPROCESSING MIGHT NOT BE MOST ECONOMICAL METHOD OF UTILIZING NUCLEAR FUEL, STRESSING THAT EACH COUNTRY SHOULD BE JUDGE OF WHAT IS ECONOMICAL ON BASIS OF OWN PARTICULAR ENERGY SITUATION. RESPECTED NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN DESCRIBED REPROCESSING ISSUE AS "TIME BOMB" IN US-JAPAN RELATIONS.

5. IN ITS MAIDEN COMMENT ON A SUMMIT MEETING, NLC PRAISED OUTCOME, CITING FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AS IMPORTANT IN DEEPENING US-JAPAN RELATIONS. PREDICTABLY, JSP, CGP AND JCP FORMAL SUMMIT REACTION STATEMENTS FOCUSED ON "NEW KOREA CLAUSE." THEY SAW COMMUNIQUE AS CONTINUED ACQUIESCENCE BY JAPAN IN US MILITARY "HEGEMONY" OVER ASIAN COUNTRIES AND TACIT UNDERSTANDING TO COOPERATE TO GREATER DEGREE WITH US MILITARY STRATEGY.

THEY LAMBASTED FUKUDA FOR ATTEMPTING TO RESIST PRESIDENT'S INTENTION TO WITHDRAW GROUND FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA AND PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE MAJOR INCREASE IN JAPAN'S DEFENSE EFFORT. DSP TOOK MORE BALANCED VIEW, DESCRIBING KOREA CLAUSE AS "APPROPRIATE."

6. COMMENT. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS TO EFFECT THAT US HAS ADOPTED UNEXPECTEDLY TOUGH POSTURE IN
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DEALING WITH JAPAN, PARTICULARLY ON NUCLEAR FUEL ISSUE, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT SUMMIT HAS HAD CONSTRUCTIVE IMPACT IN JAPAN. IT HAS ENCOURAGED JAPANESE TO TAKE BROADER, LONGER-TERM VIEW OF ITS PLACE IN WORLD AND PROMPTED MANY, INCLUDING MEDIA, TO BEGIN TO RETHINK JAPAN'S POLICIES IN LIGHT OF CHANGING WORLD CONDITIONS. IT ALSO BROUGHT HOME FACT THAT JAPAN ALREADY PLAYS MAJOR ECONOMIC ROLE AND THAT MORE IS EXPECTED OF IT IN POLITICAL SPHERE.

7. IMPACT OF SUMMIT ON POLITICAL FORTUNES OF PRIMIN FUKUDA IS HARDER TO ASSESS. IN JAPANESE TERMS, HE COMMITTED NO EGREGIOUS MISTAKES DURING VISIT AND DID NOT RETURN TO JAPAN WITH "BURDENS." HE HANDLED DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY AND REPROCESSING ABOUT AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED AND FAILURE TO RESOLVE PROBLEM IS BEING ATTRIBUTED MORE TO UNBENDING US ATTITUDES THAN TO FUKUDA'S LACK OF EFFORT. ALL IN ALL, JAPANESE HAVE PROBABLY GAINED A NEW RESPECT FOR THEIR POSITION IN WORLD AND THAT CANNOT HELP BUT BE PLEASING. NOTION OF SHARPLY INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES WILL TAKE MORE GETTING USED TO, BUT HERE TOO WE DETECT SIGNS OF READINESS AND A WILLINGNESS THAT WERE MARKEDLY LESS APPARENT EVEN IN RECENT PAST.
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